

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
11 August 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session**Granting of observer status in the General Assembly for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization****Letter dated 9 August 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

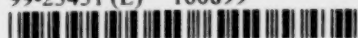
I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Granting of observer status in the General Assembly for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization".

The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of 11 countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine).

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum and the corresponding draft resolution are attached to this request (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Leonidas Rokanas
Counsellor
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.



Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

I. General presentation

1. The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) was created in 1992 as an intergovernmental mechanism with the purpose of establishing a network of cooperation in the economic field between its 11 founding member States (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine).

2. According to the first two basic BSEC documents, the Istanbul Declaration and the Bosphorus Statement of 25 June 1992, the general principles of the United Nations Charter are evoked along with the principles of good neighbourliness and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The pursuit of peace, security and stability for the Black Sea region, mainly through economic means, has been from the very first the leading principle of the process.

3. BSEC functioned effectively in the form of an intergovernmental forum until 1 May 1999, when it was transformed into a regional international organization, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, after the entrance into force of the BSEC Charter, which was signed at a Yalta summit meeting, on 4 and 5 June 1998, by the 11 BSEC heads of State or Government. It was decided at Yalta that BSEC in its new institutional form should seek to acquire observer status in the General Assembly.

II. Principles and objectives

4. The BSEC Charter's preamble reaffirms the common will of its member States to adhere to the principles of the United Nations Charter and share the vision of their regional cooperation as part of the integration process in Europe, based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, prosperity through economic liberty, social justice, and equal security and stability, which is open for interaction with other countries, regional initiatives and international organizations and financial institutions.

5. Article 3 of the BSEC Charter sets out the principles and objectives of the Organization, as follows:

(a) To act in a spirit of friendship and good neighbourliness and enhance mutual respect and confidence, dialogue and cooperation among member States;

(b) To further develop and diversify bilateral and multilateral cooperation on the basis of the rules and principles of international law;

(c) To act to improve the business environment and promote individual and collective initiatives by enterprises and companies directly involved in the process of economic cooperation;

(d) To develop economic collaboration in a manner not contravening the international obligations of member States, including those deriving from their membership to international organizations or institutions of an integrative or other nature, and not preventing the promotion of their relations with third parties;

(e) To take into account the specific economic conditions and interests of the member States involved;

(f) To further encourage the participation in the BSEC process of economic cooperation of other interested States, international economic and financial institutions, as well as enterprises and companies.

6. According to article 4 of the BSEC Charter, the areas of cooperation of member States in the BSEC framework are: trade and economic development; banking and finance; communications; energy; transport; agriculture and agro-industry; health care and pharmaceuticals; environmental protection; tourism; science and technology; exchange of statistical data and economic information; collaboration between customs and other border authorities; human contacts, combating organized crime; illicit trafficking of drugs; weapons and radioactive materials; all acts of terrorism; illegal migration; or any other related area, following a decision of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which is the decision-making organ of the Organization.

III. Organs

7. Chapter V of the BSEC Charter provides for the following principal and subsidiary BSEC organs: the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, working groups (working groups have been operating on agriculture and agro-industry, banking and finance, communications, cooperation in tourism, cooperation in science and technology, energy, electrical networks, environmental protection, exchange of statistical data and economic development), Chairman-in-Office, Troika, Committee of Senior Officials and the permanent international secretariat. The secretariat is endowed with secretariat functions, and its personnel is composed of international civil servants from BSEC member States. The secretariat of the Organization is located at Istanbul. The BSEC Charter also provides, in the framework of the BSEC process, the BSEC-related bodies that perform their functions in accordance with their basic instruments and with due respect to the established principles of BSEC. Related bodies are the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the BSEC Business Council, the Black Sea Trade and Development Bank, the Academic Cooperation and other BSEC-affiliated centres established upon approval of the Council to serve all the interested member States in specific areas of cooperation.

IV. International relations

8. BSEC has been developing a comprehensive network of international relations. Egypt, Tunisia, Israel, Poland, Slovakia, Italy, Australia, France and Germany have acquired observer status in BSEC. Mutual observer status has been exchanged with the Energy Charter Conference, and a great number of applications for acquiring observer status in BSEC by other interested States, international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, is currently under consideration. Productive cooperation has also been taking place, for example, with the European Union, the Southern Cone Common Market, the Economic Commission for Europe, and in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

V. Advantages of granting the BSEC observer status in the General Assembly

9. The heads of State or Government expressed at Yalta their conviction that obtaining observer status in the General Assembly would greatly assist future cooperation and achieve more effective results. To this end, acquiring observer status would enable both organizations to promote and enhance their economic and social efforts. It would also contribute to the establishment of common approach and joint policies, thus avoiding both contradictions and duplications in their definition. With this closer association, both organizations would benefit in the pursuit of their goals and principles.

10. Obtaining observer status would furthermore greatly assist BSEC in its efforts, on the one hand to consolidate results already achieved, and on the other to creatively and beneficially promote its goals and principles in the Black Sea region.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status in the General Assembly for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

The General Assembly,

Considering the importance of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, an intergovernmental organization dedicated to enhancing mutual respect and confidence, dialogue and cooperation, and economic collaboration among its member States,

Considering also the need, frequently noted by the United Nations, to promote and support every effort towards the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation on the basis of International Law,

Taking into account that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Charter stresses regional cooperation as a part of the integrating process in Europe based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, promoting social justice and stability,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization,

1. *Decides* to invite the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
 2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement this resolution.
-